

## Andrew Jackson to Robert Butler, May 7, 1817, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

**TO COLONEL ROBERT BUTLER.**

Hermitage, May 7, 1817.

*Sir*, I have just seen the Lexington Reporter of the 2nd Inst. my health not permitting me to go to my office at Nashville at this time, and being called upon, to furnish the facts relative to the conduct of a detachment of Kentucky militia on the night of the 25th of Jany. under the command of Col: (now Genl. Hinds) on the Bayou Bienvenue; you will therefore forward the Editors a certified copy of my order to Genl. Thomas to detach from his Division Two Hundred men for that duty, and also the order to Col: Hinds placing them under his command. For information, from what regts. this Detachment was made and also for the name of the Officer who was detailed for the command of it, I must refer them to Genl. Thomas, His Adj: Genl and Insp: Genl.

The disgraceful act alluded to as reported, was, that when Col: Hinds was approaching the British Battery on that night, at the head of his dismounted Dragoons armed with musketts and Bayonets, supported by the Kentucky detachment, as fire was opened from a British Barge, by a cannonade at which the Kentuckians precipitately fled and left him with his dismounted men to storm the Battery. Should the Editors wish it, they shall have Col: Hinds full report of this affair in due season.

As the Editors have expressed their intentions when they publish a new Edition of the History of the War in the West to advise the author to correct some of its errors, to assist them in this praise worthy design, you will forward them a copy of the report of Genl.

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Morgan's Brigade Major of the strength of Col. Davis's command on the 11th and 12th of Jany. taken from the report of Col. Davis's own adjutant which will show his force on those two days, the 3rd and 4th after the battle. You will forward them a copy from the journal of Major H. Tatam Topo: Engineer setting forth the length of my line of defence, a copy of the report of Major Harris Topo. Engineer to Gen. Carrolls Division and also a copy of Gen. Carrolls letter to me on the same subject dated the 20th June 1815, accompanied with a copy of Major Lewis Dellahuntys letter of the same date. This proves that Genl. Carrolls Division occupied about 350 yards.

The Editors cannot suppose that I will enter into a discussion of this subject with them. They Know that the forgery published in their paper under the declaration of my name and the extracts published from the History of the War in the West, brought me forward, the falsehood of which being now completely exposed by the documents before the public. They may comment upon them at pleasure, But an impartial public by comparing these reports Journals and Letters with the Letter of Genl. Adair to Governor Shelby, dated New Orleans 10th April 1815 will be enabled to judge correctly of the facts. You will therefore comply with the above request

I am very respectfully Sir Yrs. etc. etc. etc.